

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid for replacing ~~target~~-receptor molecules contaminated with at least one inflammatory mediator after the receptor molecules and inflammatory mediators bound to them have been removed from a patient's blood during hemofiltration comprising:

a pharmaceutical grade solution having ~~corresponding clean target~~-receptor molecules which are not contaminated and which correspond with the receptor molecules contaminated with inflammatory mediators that have been removed from the patient's blood during hemofiltration[.]; and
the receptor molecules selected from the group consisting of albumin and carrier molecules.

2. (Original) The fluid of Claim 1 wherein the hemofiltration comprises using a very large pore hemofilter.

3. (Original) The fluid of Claim 1 further comprising a concentration of albumin in the fluid greater than approximately 0.5 grams per one hundred milliliters.

4. (Original) The fluid of Claim 1 further comprising a concentration of albumin in the fluid less than approximately twenty grams per one hundred milliliters.

5. (Currently Amended) The fluid of Claim 1 further comprising [[a]] the plurality of clean target-receptor molecules which are not contaminated corresponding with a plurality of ~~target~~-receptor molecules contaminated with more than one inflammatory mediator removed from the patient's blood.

6. (Currently Amended) A fluid for replacing target receptor molecules contaminated with at least one toxin after the contaminated target receptor molecules have been removed from a patient's blood during hemofiltration comprising:

a pharmaceutical grade solution having ~~corresponding~~ clean target receptor molecules ~~which are not contaminated~~ corresponding with the contaminated target receptor molecules which have been removed from the patient's blood during hemofiltration[[.]]; and

the clean target receptor molecules selected from the group consisting of albumin, receptor molecules and carrier molecules.

7. (Original) The fluid of Claim 6 wherein the hemofiltration comprises using a very large pore hemofilter.

8. (Original) The fluid of Claim 6 further comprising a concentration of albumin in the fluid greater than approximately 0.5 grams per one hundred milliliters.

9. (Original) The fluid of Claim 6 further comprising a concentration of albumin in the fluid less than approximately twenty grams per one hundred milliliters.

10. (Currently Amended) The fluid of Claim 6 further comprising the [[a]] plurality of clean target receptor molecules corresponding with a plurality of target receptor molecules contaminated with more than one toxin removed from the patient's blood.

11. (Currently Amended) A replacement fluid kit for attachment to an extracorporeal blood circuit during hemofiltration, the kit comprising:

a plasma colloid replacement fluid and a reservoir for the replacement fluid;
the reservoir having at least one port operable to communicate the plasma colloid replacement fluid from the reservoir;

a coupling operable to allow flow of the replacement fluid from the port to the extracorporeal blood circuit; [[and]]

the plasma colloid replacement fluid formed in part by a pharmaceutical grade balanced salt solution liquid, suitable for infusion into a patient's blood circulatory system, with a concentration of albumin at least sufficient to maintain a prescribed albumin concentration in the patient's blood circulatory system[[.]]; and

the concentration of albumin in a range from 0.5 gm/100 ml to 10.0 gm/100 ml.

12. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood circuit for the filtration of a patient's blood comprising:

a circuit operable to remove and to return a portion of a patient's blood supply;
a blood filter operably coupled with the circuit to allow the portion of the patient's blood to flow therethrough;

the blood filter having an effective molecular weight cutoff sufficiently large to sieve more than a nominal amount of target complex molecules from the portion of the patient's blood;

the effective molecular weight cutoff greater than approximately 150,000 Daltons to sieve target molecules and target complex molecules from the portion of the patient's blood and the effective molecular weight cutoff less than approximately five million Daltons to avoid removal of significant amounts of immunoglobulin; and

a source for infusing corresponding clean target receptor molecules into the blood circuit.

13. (Original) The extracorporeal blood circuit of Claim 12, further comprising the effective molecular weight cutoff less than approximately one million Daltons.

14. (Original) The extracorporeal blood circuit of Claim 12, further comprising the effective molecular weight cutoff less than approximately five hundred thousand Daltons.

15. (Currently Amended) A blood filter comprising a membrane having an effective molecular weight cutoff sufficiently large to sieve more than a nominal amount of target complex molecules selected from the group consisting of albumin with bound inflammatory mediators and/or toxins, receptor molecules with bound inflammatory mediators and/or toxins and carrier molecules with bound inflammatory mediators and/or toxins during hemofiltration and the effective molecular weight cutoff less than approximately one million Daltons.

16. (Currently Amended) The blood filter of Claim 15 further comprising a hemofilter having a molecular weight cutoff greater than approximately one hundred fifty thousand Daltons and operable to sieve the target complex molecules from a patient's blood to form a filtered blood stream and an ultrafiltrate stream containing the target complex molecules.

17. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood circuit for the filtration of a patient's blood **to remove target molecules and target complex molecules**, comprising:

the [[a]] circuit operable to remove and to return a portion of **the [[a]]** patient's blood supply;

a blood filter operably coupled with the circuit to allow the portion of **of [[f]]** the patients' blood to flow therethrough;

the blood filter having an effective molecular weight cutoff greater than approximately 150,000 Daltons to sieve more than a nominal amount of **the target molecules and the target complex molecules** from the portion of the patient's blood;

the effective molecular weight cutoff of the blood filter less than approximately 5,000,000 Daltons to avoid removal of undesired amounts of immunoglobulins and similar large molecules **to prevent increasing the risk of opportunistic infection**; and

a source for infusing corresponding clean target receptor molecules into the blood circuit **to provide sufficient clean target receptor molecules to attract inflammatory mediators and toxins from tissue spaces and tissue binding sites in the patient.**